

be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

ROUTE 91 HARVEST FESTIVAL SHOOTING  
ANNIVERSARY

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, this is a difficult anniversary for people in Nevada and across the country. Tomorrow marks 4 years since the Route 91 Harvest Festival attack. And on that day 4 years ago, thousands attended a concert on a late summer night in my hometown of Las Vegas. They were at the festival to enjoy an evening with friends and loved ones.

Fifty-eight of them never made it home. I will never forget waiting with families at the Reunification Center in Las Vegas, where they braced themselves for the worst possible news.

Two more people have died of their wounds since the attack. Over 800 people were injured in the shooting and in the chaos that followed, as people fled for safety. And countless members of our community are still dealing with the emotional scars left by the violence of that night.

For those hundreds of concertgoers and for their loved ones, 1 October is a lingering presence—one that can return in a rush at the faintest reminder, like the sound of sirens or fireworks.

The day remains the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

While a nightmare unfolded around them, hundreds of people sprang into action to save lives, even at the risk of their own. Brave first responders rushed to the scene to direct people to safety and transport the wounded. Healthcare workers jumped into action. Ordinary Nevadans stood in line for hours in the days after the shooting to give blood to those in need. And businesses all over the State and country provided every imaginable support, from food to blankets, to airline tickets.

I think about that contrast every time I think of October 1, 2017, between the darkness of the circumstances and the light of our community coming together in the aftermath. In the midst of terror and heartbreak, a whole city, a State, a country of people showed up to help one another. And I am so proud of Nevadans, whose first response to tragedy was to help their community heal these painful wounds.

On that horrible night and the days after, every selfless act, large or small, made a difference. From bystanders who turned their pickup trucks into ambulances, to the thousands of Nevadans who put “Vegas Strong” signs in their windows to show survivors that they weren’t alone, Nevadans came together to help.

Now, we cannot undo the terrible actions or tragic events, but we can always do something to lessen the weight of these events. And even though years have passed, we still owe it to everyone touched by this tragedy to continue moving through our grief toward healing, and there is still so much that we can do.

Every time we reminisce about those we have lost, we help their loved ones keep the memories alive. With every donation to the memorial scholarships, we honor those affected by the shooting. We help survivors deal with the impact of this tragedy when we talk about the mental health toll that the shooting has taken and when we work to decrease the stigma around mental health issues.

I have consistently worked to expand treatment options for mental health and substance use issues, and I will keep pushing in the Senate to support life-changing care for those facing mental health challenges.

We make it better when we advocate for commonsense laws to prevent gun violence as well, like the ones we have passed in Nevada.

It is unbelievable that I am standing here on the Senate floor 4 years after I first spoke about this tragedy and that we still have not been able to pass background checks and commonsense gun safety measures.

The majority of Americans are with us. We need to act because Las Vegas deserves it and so do communities all across the Nation. We cannot continue to stand by as mass attacks and shootings take a tragic toll all over the United States.

To the people of Las Vegas who continue to grapple with the pain we experienced on that day, know that I am with you. We will continue to work to create a permanent memorial at the site of the shooting to be a tangible reminder of what we know; that even in the darkest times—especially in the darkest times—we can come together to help one another and we can make a difference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, from Utah’s red rock canyons to our alpine meadows, from the sprawling salt flats to the towering mountain peaks, it is hard to overstate the beauty of Utah’s majestic landscapes.

So much about being a Utahn is our connection to and care for our land. These values have been engrained in our culture since the pioneers found refuge here in 1847. We take great pride in the fact that folks from all over the country and all over the world travel to our State to experience these rich and diverse landscapes.

Utah has nearly the highest percentage of its land owned by the Federal Government—nearly two-thirds of our 52 million acres. And of that Federal land, more than 23 million acres is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

This land has been cared for and used by Utahns for generations—recreationists and sportsmen who take advantage of the access to hike, hunt, mountain bike, ATV, and camp; the ranchers who graze their livestock to provide our food and fiber; the commu-

nities that rely on the oil and gas development in the Basin or the coal mines and powerplants to provide more than 70 percent of our electricity; individuals interested in exploring the cultural anthropology of our land; and simply the residents who look to our open spaces for solitude.

Utahns deserve and demand that our public lands be managed by someone they can trust. It is quite obvious that the President’s nominee for the Director of Bureau of Land Management, Tracy Stone-Manning, is not worthy of our trust.

Ms. Stone-Manning’s history of aiding ecoterrorism is extremely troubling and alone should be disqualifying for the position to which she has been nominated. It would be like nominating Bernie Madoff to serve as Treasury Secretary.

For those who aren’t familiar with tree spiking—an action with which Ms. Stone-Manning has been associated—let me offer a brief synopsis. Tree spiking involves hammering a metal or ceramic rod into a tree trunk. Loggers could be seriously harmed or even killed when they cut into the trunk of a tree that has been spiked. And the same goes for sawmill operators who are processing the log in the mill. Ecoterrorists who engage in tree spiking are willing to cause the gruesome injury or death of hard-working Americans who are simply trying to provide for their families.

But it is not only her efforts assisting ecoterrorists that are of concern. Ms. Stone-Manning’s blatant dishonesty about being investigated over a tree-spiking incident to the Senate should disqualify her serving as BLM Director.

I take my constitutional duty to provide advice and consent with regard to Presidential nominees very seriously, as we all do. And with limited exception, I believe Presidents, regardless of party, should be able to put into place qualified individuals to lead their team. I have supported several of President Biden’s nominees even though I have disagreed with them on particular policy issues because I believe they were basically qualified for the position to which they had been nominated.

Simply put, however, Tracy Stone-Manning’s past involvement in ecoterrorism and her attempt to conceal that participation before the Senate make her unfit to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

I will be opposing her nomination and urge my Democratic friends—especially those who represent States with large amounts of Federal land—to oppose her nomination as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, back in 1987, a 23-year-old mill worker named George Alexander struck a tree spike—a tree spike like this one—in the log that he was processing. His sawblade shattered, and it caused a wound